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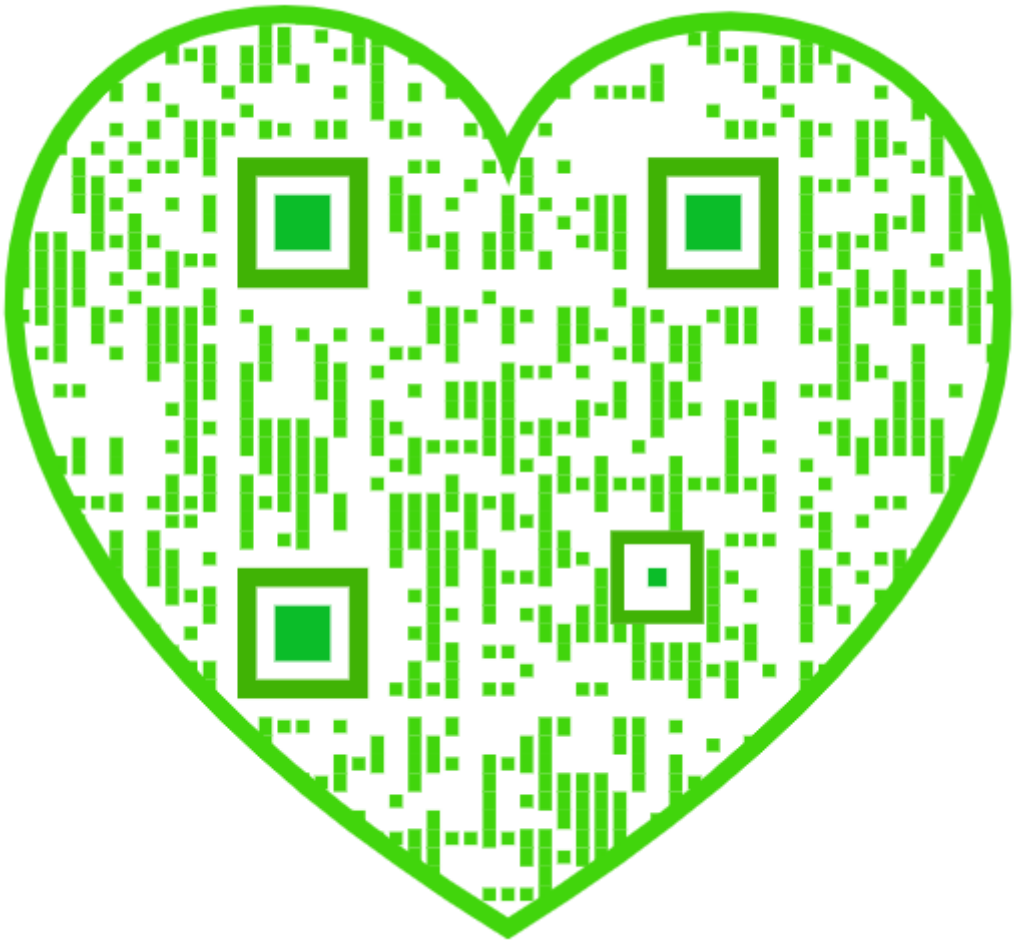
A Plan *for* Teaching Beginners *to* Read



A PLAN FOR

Teaching Beginners to Read

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NOV -6 1922

Realizing from my experience in teaching primary reading that preliminary work is necessary before putting a book into the hands of the child, I have tried this plan for beginners and have found it successful.

Print is used entirely. The capital letters measure 2½ inches, and the small ones 1¾ inches. Being large, the print is readily seen by the class.

I have divided my plan into three parts:

I. (1) The vocabulary.

(2) Single sentences.

II. Two sentences related in thought.

III. The final charts.

PART I.

1. The vocabulary.

In developing new words the vocabulary is always used to form sentences.

Each word of the vocabulary is printed on a sheet of stiff paper.

I begin by asking the children, "What do you do with your eyes?" After obtaining the answer "See," I ask one child, "Who sees with your eyes?" He answers, "I see." I tell him I will show him how that looks on paper or in a book, and place the printed words **I** and **see** on the ledge of the blackboard in such a way as to form the sentence:

I see.

I have him read this for me.

Then I show them pictures of a **cat, dog, pig, hen** and **seed.** These pictures I have on a roller shade, with the word which the picture represents printed under the picture. I take from the vocabulary the words corresponding to the several words on the shade and give **cat** to a child and tell him to match it with a word on the shade. I ask him what he sees on the shade. When he tells me, "I see a cat," I tell him that I will show him how that looks in a book. I place **a cat** after **I see,** and he reads:

I see a cat.

I give **dog** to the next child. After he has found the word on the shade, I ask him what he sees. When he tells me, "I see a dog," I have him place the word **dog** over the word **cat** and he reads:

I see a dog.

In like manner I develop **pig, hen** and **seed.**

The children may form the sentences, thus varying the work and promoting interest.

2. Single sentences.

I now begin to use the single sentences, which are printed on paper, 10 in. by 30 in.

(a) I see a cat.
I see a dog.
I see a pig.
I see a hen.
I see a seed.

I develop next the pronoun **You** and the article **the.** After they are shown in sentences formed from using the single words of the vocabulary, I have these sentences:

(b) You see the cat.
You see the dog.
You see the pig.
You see the hen.
You see the seed.

I then develop the pronoun **We.** After it is shown in sentences formed from the vocabulary, I have the single sentences:

(c) We see a cat.
We see the dog.
We see a pig.
We see the hen.
We see a seed.

There are 15 sentences in Lesson I.

Lesson II.

After developing the words **boy, girl, man, woman, fox, wheat** from pictures on the shade and words from the vocabulary as in Lesson I, I have the following single sentences:

I see a boy.
You see the girl.
We see a man.
I see the woman.
You see a fox.
We see the wheat.

The pronouns **you** and **me** are next presented, and I have the following sentences:

I see you.
You see me.
We see you.

We name our girl **Mary** and our boy **John**, and we have:

I see Mary.
You see John.

Adding five sentences from Lesson I, I have:

We see a cat.
I see the dog.
You see a pig.
We see the hen.
I see a seed.

And Lesson II is complete with 16 sentences.

Lesson III.

I ask the children what they did with their eyes yesterday, and receive the answer, "Saw." The verb **saw** is used instead of see and I have the following sentences printed on the other side of Lesson II:

I saw the boy.
You saw a girl.
We saw the man.
I saw a woman.
You saw the fox.
We saw the wheat.
I saw you.
You saw me.
We saw you.
I saw Mary.
You saw John.
We saw the cat.
I saw a dog.
You saw the pig.
We saw a hen.
I saw the seed.

Lesson IV.

Then we have the pretend lesson, and the verb **am** is used:

I am a cat.
I am a dog.
I am a pig.
I am a hen.

I am a seed.

I am a girl. (boy says this).

I am a boy. (girl says this).

I am a man.

I am a woman.

I am a fox.

I am Mary.

I am John.

For developing the adj. **big,** the picture of a big boy is used; for **little,** a little girl; for **red,** a red hen; for **old,** an old man. After asking what our boy tells us about himself we have:

I am big.
I am a big boy.

Our girl—
I am little.
I am a little girl.

Our man—
I am old.
I am an old man.

Our hen—
I am red.
I am a red hen.

Our seed—
I am wheat.
I am a wheat seed.

The article **an** is also used in this lesson.

Lesson V.

The following sentences are printed on the other side of Lesson IV:

I am a big cat.
I am a little dog.
I am a big pig.
I am a little red hen.
I am a little wheat seed.
I am a little boy.
I am a big girl.
I am a big man.
I am an old woman.
I am a red fox.
I am a big woman.
I am a little old man.

Lesson VI.

Single Sentences.

I see the little cat.
You see a big dog.
We see the little pig.
I see a little red hen.
You see the wheat seed.
We see a little boy.
I see the big girl.
You see an old man.
We see a little old woman.
I see an old fox.

Lesson VII.

The following sentences are printed on the other side of Lesson VI:

I saw a big cat.

You saw the little dog.

We saw a big pig.

I saw an old hen.

You saw the little wheat seed.

We saw a big boy.

I saw the little girl.

You saw a little old man.

We saw an old woman.

I saw the red fox.

Lesson VIII.

The new verb is **have.** The following words are developed from pictures on the shade and the vocabulary formed into sentences as in Lesson I: **rat, ox, fire, children, squirrel, goat, rabbit, water, stick, bread, bird.**

The adj. **some** is also used in this lesson.

Single Sentences.

I have the little rat.

You have an old ox.

We have a red fire.

I have the little children.

You have a big squirrel.

We have an old goat.

I have a big rabbit.

You have some water.

We have the red stick.

I have some bread.

You have a red bird.

Lesson IX.

The new verb is **found.** The following sentences are printed on the other side of Lesson VIII:

I found a big rat.

You found the red ox.

We found a big fire.

I found some children.

You found an old squirrel.

We found a big goat.

I found a little rabbit.

You found some water.

We found the big stick.

I found some bread.

You found the little bird.

Lesson X.

For developing the word **run,** I have on the shade the picture of a girl running; for **sing,** a boy singing; for **fly,** a bird flying. After asking the children what the girl says, and receiving the answer:

"I can run."

The sentence is formed from the words of the vocabulary:

The boy says:

"I can sing."

The bird says:

"I can fly."

Single Sentences.

I can run.
You can run.
We can run.
I can sing.
You can sing.
We can sing.
I can fly.
You can fly.
We can fly.
I can see.
You can see.
We can see.

Lesson XI.

The new word is **and**. The following sentences are printed on the other side of Lesson X.

I can run and sing.
You can sing and fly.
We can fly and run.
I can fly and sing.
You can run and fly.
We can sing and run.
I can sing and fly.
You can fly and run.
We can run and sing.
I can see you.
You can see me.
We can see you.

Lesson XII.

The new word is **not.**

Single Sentences.

I can not run.
You can not run.
We can not run.
I can not sing.
You can not sing.
We can not sing.
I can not fly.
You can not fly.
We can not fly.
I can not see.
You can not see.
We can not see.

Lesson XIII.

The new word is **did.** The following sentences are printed on the other side of Lesson XII.

I did not run.
You did not sing.
We did not fly.
I did not see you.
You did not see me.
We did not run and fly.
I did not sing and run.
You did not fly and sing.
We did not see the dog.

I did not see the cat.
You did not have the pig.
We did not have the hen.

Lesson XIV.

The new words are **A, An, The.**

Single Sentences.

A cat can run.
A bird can fly.
A girl can sing.
An old dog can not run.
An old bird can not fly.
An old man can not sing.
The ox did not run.
The bird did not fly.
The woman did not sing.

Lesson XV.

The new words are **to** and **with.** The following sentences are printed on the other side of Lesson XIV.

A girl can sing to the woman.
A dog can run with the boy.
A bird can fly to the man.
An old bird can not fly to you.
An old man can not run with me.
An old woman can not sing to me.

The dog did not run with you.
The bird did not fly to the girl.
The man did not sing with the woman.

Part II.

Lesson XVI.

Two sentences related in thought:

I am Mary.
I am little.

I am John.
I am big.

I am a little boy.
I can run and sing.

I am a big girl.
I can not fly.

I am an old woman.
I can not run and sing.

I see John and Mary.
John and Mary can run.

You see a dog.
You can run with the dog.

We see an old man.
We can run to the old man.

I saw a bird.
The bird can fly and sing.

I saw a big fire.
I did not run to the fire.

You saw a little goat.
The goat did not see you.

We saw a cat.
The cat did not have a rat.

You saw some children.
The children did not have the bread and water.

A boy saw a squirrel.
The squirrel did not run to the boy.

A girl saw a rabbit.
The rabbit did not run with the girl.

An old woman found a red hen.
The hen did not have a wheat seed.

An old man found a pig.
The pig did not see the old man.

I found the ox.
The ox did not run with me.

You found the dog.
The dog did not run with you.

I have a dog.
The dog can run to me.

You have a bird.
The bird can fly to you.

I saw a girl.
The girl found a squirrel.

You saw the fox.
The fox found the rabbit.

We saw an old woman.
The old woman found a goat.

Lesson XVII.

For developing **ran away from,** I have on the shade the picture of a dog running away from a boy. After asking what the dog did and receiving the answer: "The dog ran away from the boy," I form this sentence with the words of the vocabulary. In the single sentences I use **ran away, ran from,** and **ran away from.**

Single Sentences.

The girl ran away.
The boy ran away.
The hen ran away.
The children ran away.
The rabbit ran from the fox.
The man ran from the fire.
Mary ran from John.
The rat ran away from the cat.
The squirrel ran away from the dog.
The hen ran away from the woman.
I ran away from you.

The goat ran away from the boy.
The girl ran away from the ox.
The boy ran to the man.
The girl ran to the woman.
The bird can fly away from you.

Lesson XVIII.

The new word is **after.**

Single Sentences.

The girl ran after some bread.
The boy ran after a stick.
The hen ran after the seed.
The children ran after the wheat.
The fox ran after the rabbit.
The man ran after some water.
John ran after Mary.
The cat ran after the rat.
The dog did not run after the squirrel.
The woman did not run after the hen.
You ran after me.
The boy did not run after the goat.
The ox did not run after the girl.
The boy ran with the water.
The girl ran with the bread.
You can not fly after the bird.

Lesson XVIII is printed on the back of Lesson XVII. Thus, by turning the paper, one has two sentences related in thought.

XVII. The girl ran away.

XVIII. The girl ran after some bread.

Lesson XIX.

Single Sentences.

I see a girl.
You see the boy.
We saw a woman.
I saw a man.
You found a seed.
We found a hen.
I have a cat.

The new words are **She, He, It,** is, has, was, had.

For example, I take the sentence:

I see a girl.

Place it on the ledge of the blackboard and then have a child read it.

Select from the vocabulary:

She
is
little

Place these words in a sentence beside the first one and have a child tell something about the girl.

She is little.

You see a boy.
He has a dog.

We saw a woman.
She was old.

I saw a man.
He had a pig.

You found a seed.
It was a wheat seed.

We found a hen.
She had a seed.

I have a cat.
The cat has a rat.

Two Sentences.

I see a bird.
It is little and red.

You see an old man.
He is little.

We see a seed.
It is a wheat seed.

I saw a goat.
It was a big goat.

You saw a boy.
He was a little boy.

We saw a woman.
She was little and old.

I saw the fire.
The fire was big.

I have a pig.
It is big.

You have a goat.
The goat is little.

We have an ox.
The ox is big and red.

I see the girl.
The girl has some bread.

You see an old man.
He has a big pig.

We see the woman.
She has a little cat.

I see Mary.
Mary has a hen.

We see the fox.
The fox has a squirrel.

I saw the hen.
She had a wheat seed.

You saw the man.
He had an ox.

We saw the dog.
The dog has a stick.

I saw the boy.
He had some water.

You saw John.
John had a dog.

I found the rabbit.
It was a little rabbit.

You found the seed.
It was wheat.

We found a stick.
It was big.

I found the cat.
The cat had a rat.

You found the dog.
The dog had a squirrel.

We found the children.
The children had some bread.

Lesson XX.

New words—**will, shall, plant, cut, thresh, grind, make, eat, it.**

Single Sentences.

I will plant the seed.
You shall cut the wheat.
We will thresh it.

I will grind the wheat.
You shall make the bread.
I will cut it.
We will eat the bread.

Lesson XXI.

The boy shall plant the wheat.
The man shall cut it.
The boy shall thresh the wheat.
The man shall grind it.
The woman shall make the bread.
The girl shall cut it.
The children shall eat the bread.

Lesson XXII.

New words—**Who, said.**

Who will plant the seed?
The man said, "I will plant it."

Who will cut the wheat?
The boy said, "I will cut it."

Who will thresh the wheat?
The man said, "I will thresh it."

Who will grind the wheat?
The boy said, "I will grind it."

Who will make the bread?
The woman said, "I will make it."

Who will eat the bread?
The children said, "We will eat it."

Lesson XXIII.

New word—**made.**

Who made the bread?
You did not make it.
I made it.
Who will cut the bread?
I will.
Who will eat the bread?
We will eat it.

We did not make the bread.
Who made it?
The woman made it.
Who will eat the bread?
The children will eat it.

Part III.

Final Charts.

I see a girl.
She is Mary.
Mary is a big girl.
She has a little bird.
The bird is red.
The bird can fly from Mary.

You have a dog.
The dog is big.
The dog found a squirrel.
It was a little squirrel.
It did not run from the dog.

We have a hen.
She is little and red.
She found a seed.
It was a little seed.
It was wheat.

I saw a boy.
The boy was big.
He had a pig.
It was a little pig.
The pig did not run to the boy.

You saw the girl.
She was a little girl.
She had a cat.
It was big.
The girl ran with the cat.

An old man has a seed.
It is a little seed.
It is a wheat seed.
The old man will plant the little wheat seed.
He will cut and thresh the wheat.

There.

There was an old woman.
She had a cat.
The cat was big.
The cat ran away from the old woman.

There was an old man.
He had a dog.
The dog was little.
The dog did not run away from the old man.

wanted, he, So, got, And.

We saw a boy.
He was John.
He had a pig.
The pig ran away from John.
John wanted the pig.
So he ran after it.
And he got it.

she.

Mary had a hen.
The hen was little and red.
The hen ran away.
Mary wanted the hen.
So she ran after it.
And she got it.

Then.

We see an old woman.
The old woman is little.
She can make bread.
She will cut it.
Then she will eat the bread.

met, But, get.

I met a boy.
He was a big boy.
He had a goat.
The goat ran away.
Then the boy ran after the goat.
But he did not get it.

A girl had a squirrel.
It was a little squirrel.
The squirrel ran away from the girl.
The girl ran after the squirrel.
But she did not get it.

then.

There was an old woman.
She wanted some bread.
She said, "I will make it."
So she made it.
Then she said, "Who will cut it?"
The girl said, "Not I."
The woman said, "You shall not eat it, then."

There was an old man.
He had some wheat.
He said, "Who will plant the wheat?"
The girl said, "I will not."
The boy said, "I will, then."
So he did.
Then the boy said, "I will cut, thresh and grind it."

Get.

The dog ran away.
The old man said, "Get the dog."
The girl said, "I can not."
The boy said, "I can."
The man said, "Then get it."
And the boy got the dog.

The cat ran away.
The old woman said, "Get the cat."
The boy said, "Not I."
The girl said, "I will, then."
And she ran after it.
But she did not get it.

We saw a woman.
She had some children.
The children wanted some bread.
So she made the bread.
Then the children had bread to eat.

I saw a red fox.
The fox did not see me.
The fox saw a hen.
The hen ran away from the fox.
The fox wanted the hen.
So he got it.
And I got the fox.

We met an old man.
He had a pig
It was a little pig.
The pig ran away from the old man.
Then the old man ran after the pig.
But he did not get it.

I saw a fox and a rabbit.
The fox saw the rabbit.
The rabbit ran.
So the fox ran after the rabbit.
And he got it.

You met a girl.
She was little.
She had a cat.
The cat ran away from the girl.
Then the girl ran after the cat.
And she got it.

drink.

An old woman had a goat.
It was a big goat.
It ran away.
The goat ran to some water.
The goat wanted to drink the water.

came.

A man had an ox.
The ox was big and red.
The ox ran away.
He came to some water.
He did not drink the water.

bite.

The boy has a cat.
It is a big cat.
The cat found a rat.
It was a little rat.
The rat did not bite the cat.

beat.

A girl had a dog.
It was an old dog.
The girl did not beat the dog with a stick.
The dog did not bite the girl.

A boy has an ox.
It is a big red ox.
The ox will not run.
So the boy will beat the ox.

The man has a dog and a cat.
The dog is big.
The cat is little.
The dog will bite the cat.
Then the man will beat the dog with a stick.

burn, quench.

We see a fire.
It is a big red fire.
The fire will burn the stick.
Get some water to quench the fire.
The water will quench the fire.

The children came to the fire.
It was a big fire.
The fire will burn the children.
Get some water to quench the fire.
So the man got the water.

The woman made some bread.
The fire did not burn it.
The girl will cut the bread.
Then the children will eat it.

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